



Printing Matrix - Heraldry - Folk Art - Xylography - Haute époque - Curiosity

350 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood



Description

Mid-17th century Circa 1650-1670
German-speaking Switzerland or Southern
Germany Remarkable circular printing die in
fruitwood, carved in relief, presenting a heraldic
composition dominated by two facing lions
supporting a central shield surmounted by a royal
crown with arches. Above, two radiant angels
spread their wings around faces with incisive
features, framed by a semicircular border typical
of Germanic productions of the 17th century.
This plate, engraved in positive relief, does not
correspond to a mold but to a printing die
intended for xylography -- a woodblock printing
technique of medieval origin still used in Swiss
and German workshops in the 17th century. The
raised parts, inked by hand, made it possible to
print emblematic, votive, or artisanal images on

Dealer

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Maussane-les-Alpilles 13520

paper or parchment. The iconography associates the lions of temporal power with the crown of sovereignty and the angels protecting the spiritual, according to a moral language inherited from humanist and reformed traditions. These images circulated in the form of devotional leaflets, ex-votos, biblical frontispieces or workshop signs, exalting faith, hierarchy and the dignity of work. The style of sculpture - direct carving, deep reliefs, unsmoothed backgrounds - links this work to the popular workshops of Zurich, Saint-Gall or Ulm, active in the production of images on wood before the widespread use of intaglio. This type of matrix today constitutes a rare testimony to the art of popular printmaking before the mechanization of printing. Through its balance between image tool and workshop sculpture, this plate asserts an emblematic, hieratic and sovereign aesthetic.

Diameter: 21.5 cm Condition: superb old patina, some stabilized insect bites, intact background.

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